

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions/listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

16. (currently amended) An elastic article comprising

- a. an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of enzyme, surfactant, brightener, dye, suds suppresser, bleach, bleach activator, fabric softener, fabric conditioner, antibacterial agent, effervescence system, fabric care ingredient, pharmaceutical ingredient, cosmetic ingredient, and mixtures thereof; and
- b. a foam matrix formed from at least one polymeric material and a plasticiser; and
- c. a stabilizing agent;

wherein said article is adapted to deliver said active ingredient to an aqueous environment.

17. (currently amended) The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein ~~said active ingredient is active in an aqueous environment and~~ wherein said article is water-dispersible, water-disintegrating or water-soluble.

18. (currently amended) The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said matrix ~~comprises~~ has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of below about 50°C.

19. (currently amended) The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said matrix ~~comprises~~ has an elastic modulus of less than about 1 GN.m⁻².

20. (previously presented) The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said stabilizing agent comprises a foam stabilizing agent.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said active ingredient comprises an enzyme and wherein said stabilizing agent comprising an enzyme stabilizing agent.

23. (previously presented) The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said polymeric material comprises a water-soluble polymer.

24. (previously presented) The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said article is in the form of a particle having a volume mean particle size of from about 50 to about 4000 microns.

25. (currently amended) The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said article ~~comprises~~ has a relative density of from about 0.05 to about 0.9.

26. (currently amended) The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said matrix forms a series of closed cells and open cells, wherein the ratio of closed cells to open cells is at least 1 to 1.

27-28 (canceled)

29. (currently amended) A method of delivering the elastic article of claim 16, said method comprising the step of delivering said active ingredient to an aqueous environment, ~~said active ingredient selected from the group consisting of: detergent active ingredients, enzymes and mixtures thereof~~ and wherein said aqueous environment is wash water.

30. (previously presented) A method of using the elastic article of claim 16, said method comprising the step of incorporating said elastic article into a composition selected from the group consisting of: cleaning composition, fabric care composition, personal care composition, cosmetic composition, pharmaceutical composition and mixtures thereof.

31. (canceled)

32. (new) An elastic article comprising

- a. an active ingredient; and
- b. a foam matrix formed from at least one polymeric material and a plasticiser; and
- c. a stabilizing agent;

wherein said article is in the form of a particle having a mean particle size of from about 50 to about 4000 microns and is adapted to deliver said active ingredient to an aqueous environment.

33. (new) The elastic article according to claim 32, wherein said article is water-dispersible, water-disintegrating or water-soluble.

34. (new) The elastic article according to claim 32, wherein said matrix has an elastic modulus of less than about 1GN.m^{-2} .

35. (new) The elastic article according to claim 32, wherein said polymeric material comprises a water-soluble polymer.

36. (new) The elastic article according to claim 32, wherein said active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of enzyme, surfactant, brightener, dye, suds suppresser, bleach, bleach activator, fabric softener, fabric conditioner, antibacterial agent, effervescence system, fabric care ingredient, pharmaceutical ingredient, cosmetic ingredient, and mixtures thereof.

37. (new) The elastic article according to claim 32, wherein said stabilizing agent comprises a foam stabilizing agent.

38. (new) The elastic article according to claim 32, wherein said active ingredient comprises an enzyme and wherein said stabilizing agent comprising an enzyme stabilizing agent.

39. (new) The elastic article according to claim 32, wherein said active ingredient is an enzyme, a bleach, or a bleach activator.

40. (new) The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said active ingredient is an enzyme, a bleach, or a bleach activator.

41. (new) A process for producing an elastic article, said process comprising the steps of
(a) obtaining a composition comprising a polymeric material and, optionally, a plasticiser;
(b) chemically or physically introducing a gas into said composition;
(c) prior to, simultaneous with, or subsequent to step (b), contacting an active ingredient with said composition;
(d) optionally, prior to, simultaneous with, or subsequent to step (b), contacting a dissolution agent with said composition; and
(e) shaping the resulting composition into particles having a mean particle size of from about 50 to about 4000 microns

wherein one or more of the steps (a) to (e) are followed or accompanied by the removal of at least a portion of water.

42. (new) The process according to claim 41, wherein said active ingredient is contacted with said stabilizing agent prior to said active ingredient being contacted with said mixture of polymeric material and plasticiser.

43. (new) The process according to claim 41, wherein said active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of enzyme, surfactant, brightener, dye, suds suppresser, bleach, bleach activator, fabric softener, fabric conditioner, antibacterial agent, effervescence system, fabric care ingredient, pharmaceutical ingredient, cosmetic ingredient, fabric care ingredient, and mixtures thereof.

44. (new) The process according to claim 41, wherein said active ingredient is an enzyme, a bleach, or a bleach activator.